

Message Text

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1008

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1835

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SU, CA, CSCE

SUBJECT: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. IN APRIL 3 POLADS MEETING, CANADIAN REP (FOWELL) REPORTED AS FOLLOWS ON A MARCH 31 CONVERSATION BETWEEN SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND CANADA'S AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW (FORD) UPON LATTER'S RETURN AFTER A BRIEF ABSENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

2. ON CSCE, GROMYKO NOTED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN RECENT MONTHS ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES SEEMED INTERESTED IN DELAYING A CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. SOVIETS BELIEVED A GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY DETERMINED THEIR POSITIONS ON TIMING AND LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN STAGE III. AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM AMBASSADOR FORD, GROMYKO SAID SOVIETS HAD NOT SENT RECENT BREZHNEV LETTER ON CSCE TO OTTAWA BECAUSE THEY DID NOT CONSIDER CANADA TO BE AMONG THOSE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON AN EARLY CSCE CONCLUSION. SOVIETS HAD ADDRESSED LETTERS ONLY TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH MIGHT CREATE DIFFICULTIES.
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3. SOVIETS BELIEVED MONTH OF JULY "HAD MORE OR LESS" BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR CSCE SUMMIT. AMBASSADOR FORD RESPONDED THAT CANADA'S RELUCTANCE TO SET FIRM DATES NOW STEMMED FROM APPRECIATION THAT CONSIDERABLE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, PARTICULARLY ON ASSEMBLY

AND DRAFTING OF A FINAL DOCUMENT. IN REPLY, GROMYKO REPEATED THAT SOVIETS NOW HAD A CLEARER IDEA OF SOME COUNTRIES' POLICIES AND, WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, NOTED AGAIN THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS SEEM TO WANT TO DELAY CSCE CONCLUSION. GROMYKO HOPED THAT GOC AND PM TRUDEAU PERSONALLY WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING CSCE TO EARLY COMPLETION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR FORD'S QUESTION ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, GROMYKO REPLIED THAT MOSCOW'S POSITION WAS CLEAR AND HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS INCLUDING THOSE OF BREZHNEV. SOVIETS FAVOR SETTling ALL PROBLEMS AT GENEVA. SEPARATE, PARTIAL AGREEMENTS WERE NOT THE WAY TO PROCEED AND GENEVA CONFERENCE PROVIDED ONLY FORUM AT WHICH SETTLEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. ONCE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS RECONVENED, SAID GROMYKO, WITH THE FULL REPRESENTATION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, FINDING OF A SOLUTION WOULD DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ATTEND.

4. WHEN FORD SUGGESTED THAT SITUATION MIGHT IN MEANTIME BECOME MORE DANGEROUS, GROMYKO AGREED THAT THIS WAS TRUE BUT WAS CONTROLLABLE.

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